

## CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

What is claimed is:

~~Sub A~~ 1. A thermoplastic molding composition comprising:

rice hull particulates pretreated sodium peroxide and with an effective amount of resin and plastic material.

2. A thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein said rice hull contains residue of sodium peroxide in the amount of 1 to 7 percent by weight;

JBH 11-6-00 3. A thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of polyols, polyesters, and phenolics/.

4. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic resin is present in the amount of about 5 to 7 percent by weight/.

JBH 11-6-00 5. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of recycled plastic scrap and waste plastic scrap/.

Sub A 6. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 5 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylent, polyester, and polypropylene;

JBH 11-6-00 7. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 6 wherein said thermoplastic material is present in the amount of 20 to 40 percent by weight/.

8. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 1 including rice hull ash as filler/.

JBH 11-6-00 9. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 8 wherein said rice hull ash is present in an amount of 2 to 5 percent/.

Sub A 10. The thermoplastic molding composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein whole rice hulls are substituted for the rice hull particulates.

11. A thermoplastic molding composition with enhanced strength and improved environmental properties such as water, fire, fungal and termite resistance comprising: rice hull particulates pretreated with an effective amount of sodium peroxide in the amount of 1 to 7 percent by weight; a thermoplastic resin in the amount of about 5 to 7 percent by weight; plastic material in the amount of 20 to 40 percent by weight; and rice hull ash in the amount of 0.5 to 2.5 percent by weight.

8/24/12 12. A method of making a thermoplastic molding composition, comprising the steps of:

- a. grinding rice hulls to a predetermined particle size to form rice hull powder;
- b. admixing said rice hull powder with sodium peroxide;
- c. washing said rice hull powder to remove said sodium peroxide to a predetermined level to provide a pretreated rice hull powder containing sodium peroxide;
- d. drying said pretreated rice hull powder; and
- e. mixing said pretreated rice hull powder with a thermoplastic material to form a homogeneous mixture.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said pretreated rice hull particulates contain a residue of sodium peroxide in the amount of about 1 to 7 percent by weight.

14. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of polyols, polyesters, and phenolics.

5B4 11-6-00 15. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said thermoplastic resin is present in said homogeneous mixture in the amount of about 5 to 7 percent by weight .

16. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyesters.

17. The method as recited in Claim 16 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of plastic scrap and recycled plastics.

18. The method as recited in Claim 17 wherein said thermoplastic material is present in said homogeneous mixture in the amount of about 20 to 40 percent by weight.

19. The method as recited in Claim 12 including the step of adding rice hull ash to said homogeneous mixture as a filler.

20. The method as recited in Claim 19 wherein said rice hull ash is present in the amount of about 0.5 to 2.5 percent by weight.

21. The method as recited in Claim 12 including the step of molding an article from said homogeneous mixture.

22. The method as ~~recited~~ in Claim 11 wherein whole rice hull is substituted for rice hull powder.

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